37

DEF 12-5 JORDAN
XR DEF 19-9 US-JORDA
XR DEF 4 ARAB
RS-AN

INCOMING TELEGRAM Department of State

7Bb

46 Action SS Info

NNNNVV QMA 037KGA961 SECRET
PP RUCJHK RUEHCR
DE RUQMKG 125A 2001694
ZNY SSSSS
P R 190955Z ZEA
FM AMEMBASSY AMMAN
TO RUEHCR/SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 25
INFO RUCJHK/CINCSTRIKE
RUFGWC/DEFREPNAMA PARIS
RUFHDN/AMEMBASSY LONDON EIGHT
RUFHPA/AMEMBASSY PARIS PRIORITY SEVEN
STATE GRNC
BT

1965 JUL 19 AM 8 34

DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MR 039
REVIEWED BY Duncan DATE 2/1/84
RDS☐ or XDS☐ EXT. DATE
TS AUTH. REASON(S)
ENDORSE EXISTING MARKINGS ☐
DECLASSIFIED☒ RELEASABLE☒
RELEASE DENIED☐
PA or FOI EXEMPTIONS

S E C R E T JULY 19

REFERENCE: DEPTEL 23

CINCSTRIKE FOR RAMSEY

SUPERSONICS FOR JORDAN

UNABLE REACH PRIME MINISTER UNTIL NOON JULY 18 WHEN I INTRODUCED SUBJECT BY REMINDING HIM THAT IN OUR PREVIOUS CONVERSATION (EMBTEL 19) I HAD NOTED THAT WASHINGTON NOT SATISFIED WITH VALIDITY OF FRENCH REPLY ON SUPERSONICS AND THAT WE OURSELVES HAD APPROACHED FRENCH. WE HAD NOW LEARNED THAT GOJ REQUEST HAD NOT PREVIOUSLY BEEN GIVEN CAREFUL POLICY CONSIDERATION AND THAT FRENCH WERE PREPARED TO CONTINUE NEGOTIATIONS WITH JORDAN. KEY ISSUE FOR THEM BEFORE HAD BEEN APPARENT LACK OF FUNDS, BUT THAT IF THIS AND OTHER ISSUES COULD BE RESOLVED, FRENCH THOUGHT THEY COULD ADJUST THEIR PRODUCTION SCHEDULES TO MEET JORDANIAN REQUIREMENT.

ON QUESTION OF FINANCES, I REMINDED PRIME MINISTER THAT HE HAD TOLD ME HE THOUGHT HE COULD ACHIEVE SIGNIFICANT SAVINGS IN MILITARY BUDGET THIS YEAR. PERHAPS THAT WOULD PROVIDE FUNDS FOR TOKEN DOWN PAYMENT AND THEN THEY COULD DRAW UP DELIVERY CONTRACT, SIMILAR TO MEMO OF UNDERSTANDING WITH US, BASED ON AVAILABILITY OF FUNDS. IF UAC PAYMENTS CONTINUED ACCORDING TO SCHEDULE AGREED AT SUMMIT II, JORDAN SHOULD BE IN POSITION TO MAKE FURTHER PAYMENT BY MARCH OF NEXT YEAR. THEREFORE, IF THEY WERE SERIOUS ABOUT THEIR NEED FOR AGREEMENT ON SUPERSONICS BEFORE SEPTEMBER, I URGED THEM TO GO BACK TO FRENCH IMMEDIATELY.

PRIME MINISTER SAID THIS WAS IMPOSSIBLE. FIRST, POTENTIAL SAVINGS HE HAD MENTIONED WAS DREAM AND NOT REALITY AND HE HAD NO FUNDS IN HAND FOR DOWN PAYMENT. SECOND, GOJ DID NOT WANT FRENCH PLANES BUT U.S. PLANES. THIRD, WE HAD ALREADY PROMISED TO UNDERTAKE PILOT TRAINING. THEREFORE WHY COULD WE NOT AGREE TO SUPPLY

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104'S IN ABOUT TWO YEARS, AT WHICH POINT HE WAS SURE 104'S WOULD BE OBSTDESCENT TO OUR NEEDS AND WOULD FIT IN WITH PLANNED REPLACEMENT OF HAWKER-HUNTERS.

I REPLIED THAT THERE WERE SEVERAL ADDITIONAL FACTORS WHICH HE HAD TO TAKE INTO CONSIDERATION. FIRST, WE HAD MADE IT VERY CLEAR DURING FEBRUARY TALKS THAT WE DID NOT WANT TO GET INTO POSITION OF BEING SUPPLIER OF SUPERSONICS ON BOTH SIDES OF FRONTIER. SECOND, THERE WAS IN MY MIND VALID DISTINCTION BETWEEN DEALING WITH GOJ AIR FORCE REQUIREMENTS ON BILATERAL BASIS AND OUR BEING PRESSURED INTO MEETING UAC FORCE GOALS. I DID NOT AT ALL RULE OUT POSSIBILITY THAT WE MIGHT ASSIST IN REPLACEMENT OF HAWKER-HUNTERS AT APPROPRIATE TIME BUT I THOUGHT CHANCES OF OUR AGREEING TO SUPPLY 104'S BEFORE SEPTEMBER SUMMIT WERE VERY SLIGHT.

PRIME MINISTER INTERRUPTED TO ASK IF WE COULD IN THAT CASE START TRAINING OF PILOTS IN AUGUST AND LET THEM TRY TO GET THROUGH SUMMIT WITH THAT POSITIVE ACCOMPLISHMENT AND STATEMENT THAT NEGOTIATIONS FOR WESTERN SUPERSONICS WERE CONTINUING. (EMBASSY HAS PROPOSED THIS AS FALL BACK POSITION IN LETTER BEING POUCHED TODAY BUT I CHOSE NOT TO PURSUE OPENING AT PRESENT.) I SAID THAT WAS QUITE DIFFERENT PROPOSITION FROM ANYTHING GOJ HAD PUT FORWARD BEFORE, BUT IF THEY WANTED COMMITMENT ON PLANES I THOUGHT THEY HAD TO PURSUE MATTER MORE THOROUGHLY WITH FRENCH AS KING HAD PROMISED TO DO LAST WINTER.

FINAL FACTOR WHICH I SAID PRIME MINISTER SHOULD BEAR IN MIND WAS THAT WE HAD JUST LEARNED THAT JORDAN HAD NOT RECEIVED ITS 1965 ALLOTMENT FROM UAC. GOJ OWED US ABOUT $13 TO 15 MILLION ON GROUND EQUIPMENT PACKAGE BY END OF MONTH AND APPARENTLY HAD NO FUNDS WITH WHICH TO PAY. UNDER THESE CIRCUMSTANCES MY GUESS WAS THAT GOJ COULD HARDLY EXPECT TO FIND COOPERATIVE ATTITUDE IN WASHINGTON ON SUBJECT OF SUPERSONICS. IF UAC HAD NOT EVEN BEEN ABLE TO MAKE SECOND YEAR'S ALLOTMENTS, WHAT POINT WAS THERE IN TALKING ABOUT MILITARY EQUIPMENT WHICH WAS TO BE PAID FOR WITH THIRD AND FOURTH AND EVEN FIFTH YEAR'S ALLOTMENTS ?

PRIME MINISTER DISMISSED PROBLEM OF FINANCIAL ARREARS BY SAYING FLATLY THEY WOULD GET MONEY FROM UAC AND NOT TO WORRY ABOUT PAYMENTS DUE USG BUT HE ADMITTED EXISTENCE OF THIS PROBLEM WAS NOT CONDUCIVE TO SUCCESSFUL NEGOTIATIONS WITH WASHINGTON. HE GRANTED THAT THEY SHOULD CONTINUE TO PURSUE SUPERSONIC ISSUE WITH FRENCH. HE THEN ASKED IF WE WOULD BE WILLING CONVEY MESSAGE I HAD JUST GIVEN HIM TO KING HUSSEIN IN PARIS. HE SAID

KING WAS REALLY "ACTION OFFICER" ON THIS ONE AND FURTHERMORE WAS NOW IN FRANCE WHERE HE COULD DO SOMETHING ABOUT IT. SAID HE SO DISTRUSTED RELIABILITY AND ACCURACY OF GOJ COMMUNICATIONS AND FURTHER THAT HE WANTED TO KEEP JORDAN EMBASSY PARIS OUT OF PICTURE THAT HE WOULD PREFER WE APPROACH KING DIRECTLY.

I AGREED TO RECOMMEND THAT EMBASSY PARIS APPROACH KING DIRECTLY ON THIS BUT REQUESTED THAT HE SEND MESSAGE SAYING THIS APPROACH BEING MADE AT HIS REQUEST. HE SAID HE WOULD AND EXPRESSED APPRECIATION FOR OUR HAVING COME TO HIM FIRST AND NOT DIRECTLY TO KING "EVEN THOUGH I AM NOT ONE TO TAKE ACTION".

GP-3. BARNES

Note: Handled as LIMDIS per S/S-O.